

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT FOR CONTINUATION APPLICATION  
UNDER 37 CFR §1.98(d)(1)**

Mail Stop: IDS  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application.

The items identified in this Information Disclosure Statement may or may not be "material" pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56 and the submission thereof by Applicant(s) shall not be construed as an admission that any such patent, publication or other information referred to therein is material or considered to be material (37 CFR §1.97(h)), or even qualifies as "prior art" under 35 USC §102 with respect to this invention unless specifically designated by Applicant(s) as such. Further, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that no other material information, defined in 37 CFR §1.56, exists.

Applicant has not submitted copies of each cited U.S. patent and U.S. patent application as required by 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i), amended October 2004, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has waived this requirement for all U.S. patent applications.

With regard to publications and foreign patents identified in this Information Disclosure Statement, these papers were provided or cited during the prosecution of (a) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/719,363 filed November 20, 2003, (b) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/531,356, filed March 20, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,681,120, and (c) U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/846,108, filed April 25, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,278,884. U.S.

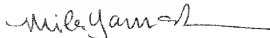
Patent Application Serial No. 10/719,363 is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/531,356, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/846,108. All of these patent applications are referred to in the first paragraph of the specification of the subject patent application, whereby it is believed that copies of those references are not required to be presented with this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR §1.98(d). However, if applicant is incorrect in this regard, please notify the undersigned counsel for applicant and copies of the references will be provided.

With respect to the "concise explanation of the relevance" of the non-English language references, as required by 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3), Applicant's only knowledge of such relevance is by reason of the fact that the references were cited in a private search that Applicant had conducted in Germany with respect to the subject matter of the parentage of the subject application, namely, Applicant's U.S. Patents 6,278,884 and 6,681,120 and U.S. Patent Application 10/719,363.

This Information Disclosure Statement is believed to be timely in that it is being submitted under 37 CFR §1.97(b)(3) before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits, whereby no petition or fee is required.

However, if a fee is required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 50-0337, under Order No. LA-7297-101C2.

Respectfully submitted,



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